

Notes on the History of Pottawattamie County (No. 11)

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ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

The Annals of Iowa, 12(1) (Jan. 1874): 31-53

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ture was chief clerk to one of the houses of the legislature.

At this meeting of the board we brought forward the subject of changing the name of the town, and thus avoiding the numerous delays and losses in mail matter, resulting from similarity of post office name, almost every northern state having its Lexington. Skinner and Rockwell joined in the move, but, on consultation, the board concluded they had no power in the premises, and that it was the province of the district court. At the next session of that court, a petition, gotten up mainly by Skinner and Rockwell, was presented. Judge Wilson assented, and since then the town has borne the name of Anamosa — pronounced An-a-mo-sa.

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

BY D. C. BLOOMER.

[Continued from page 628, vol. XI., No. 4.]

AT the October state election the whole number of votes cast in the county was two thousand one hundred and forty, and the republican majority was one hundred and thirty-one. The following officers were elected: Representative, John Bereshiem; county treasurer, John W. Chapman; auditor, E. W. Bowman; sheriff, Perry Reel; superintendent of schools, George L. Jacobs; county surveyor, E. W. Davenport; coroner, Henry Osborn. Of the above, Bowman and Reel were democrats, and all the others republicans. In Kane township Captain J. P. Williams was elected supervisor.

On the evening of the 28th of October a fire occurred in Council Bluffs, by which property to the amount of about

\$25,000 was destroyed. The buildings were located on the south side of middle Broadway, and were owned by A. L. Deming and Frank Street, and were occupied as stores and shops. Five buildings were either badly injured or totally destroyed. Another fire on Main street, during the same month, destroyed the residence of Dr. Henry Osborn, and two or three other buildings. These fires, and another which was happily prevented from spreading on another street, were all believed to be the work of incendiaries. Mr. Safely's jewelry store, with an adjoining building, were also burned up this month.

Several fine residences were begun this year. One, by General Dodge, is situated on the western side of the Bluffs, and overlooking the whole country for a long distance; another, by John Bereshiem, is in a beautiful glen in the eastern part of the city.

The Rock Island Railroad Company began a new depot, also a large brick round-house, and several large brick structures for shops and other purposes.

Early in the season the improvements on the Pacific House were completed, making it one of the largest and most commodious hotels in the western country. Dr. Bragg was the lessee, and it continued to be a popular resort for travelers.

The site of the deaf and dumb asylum, having been located just outside of and near the south-east corner of the city limits, the commissioners proceeded to decide upon the plan for the building, and in the fall of 1868 let the contract for its construction to William R. Craig, of Nebraska City, for \$121,500. The original commissioners were Caleb Baldwin, Thomas Officer, and E. Honn. On the death of the latter, in 1869, G. M. Dodge was appointed in his place. The plan finally decided upon, as authorized by the state legislature, provided for the erection of the main building and one wing only. William Ward was the architect in charge. The foundations, of stone, were laid in the fall of 1868, and during the year 1869 the building progressed as far as the sec-

ond story. The brick used for the superstructure were made by the contractor, on the ground, and were of an excellent quality. The tract of land on which the asylum is located, ninety acres, was paid for by the citizens of Council Bluffs, in 1867. It is finely located, just on the edge of the Missouri valley, and about a fourth of a mile from the line of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad. A projecting bluff hides a large part of the adjacent city of Council Bluffs, yet the site commands an extensive view over the surrounding country. Musquito creek crosses the northwest corner of the tract, and furnishes a never-failing supply of water.

The state census, taken in the year 1869, showed the total population of the county to be 10,977, divided as follows among the different townships: Boomer, 394; Center, 410; Crescent, 918; Grove, 292; James, 286; Knox, 560; Macedonia, 223; Rockford, 596; Silver Creek, 144; Walnut Creek, 252; York, 148; Kane (outside of Council Bluffs), 1,038; Council Bluffs city, 1st ward 908; 2d ward, 1,605; 3d ward, 927; 4th ward, 1,804; 5th ward, 547; total in city, 5,793. The number of dwelling houses in the county was 2,083, of which 1,153 were within the limits of Council Bluffs. Number of bushels of corn raised in the county, 345,081; wheat, 35,967; oats, 48,702; potatoes, 42,854; gallons of sorghum syrup, 12,065.

The village of Avoca was commenced early in March. It is situated on sections 9 and 16, in township 77, range 38, about half a mile east of the crossing of the West Nishnabotna river by the Rock Island railroad, and in one of the most beautiful and fertile valleys in Iowa. B. F. Allen was the original proprietor, but several other prominent railroad men and capitalists were associated with him. It was made a water and telegraph station, and a fine railroad hotel was commenced late in the fall, and completed early the following year. Mr. Hugo Priester erected the first dwelling house, and Captain Dirgam the first hotel, the Pacific House. C. V. Gardner and Thomas Ledwich, early in

March, opened a lumber yard, and also commenced business as real estate agents, as did also Mr. Fitch. R. P. Foss and L. A. Babcock were the first attorneys who settled in Avoca, and Newton & Brown were among the first merchants who commenced selling goods. The village grew quite rapidly, under the fostering aid of the railroad.

The farmers of the county were very generally rewarded with good crops. Heavy rains fell during the early part of the season, but they abated in time to enable the farmers to secure their wheat and oats. Of wheat, J. W. Anderson, of Silver Creek township, raised 1,500 bushels on seventy-five acres; R. H. Woodmancy, of Macedonia, 480 bushels on twenty acres; and J. S. Goss, of Rockford, 450 bushels on thirty acres. Of corn, Josiah True, of Knox, raised 6,500 bushels on one hundred and thirty acres; J. W. Story, of Center, 2,035 bushels on forty-five acres; and Woodmancy, 1,052 bushels on fifteen and a half acres. Oats were raised more generally this year than heretofore, and produced about fifty bushels to the acre. In November, corn sold in Council Bluffs at fifty cents; oats, thirty cents; and wheat, fifty to sixty cents per bushel.

The work on the street railroad went steadily forward, and was completed about the end of December. John Jones was the manager and principal owner of this important improvement, which extends from the Methodist church, on Upper Broadway, to the Missouri river, a distance of about three miles and a half. Cars were soon placed upon it, which made regular hourly trips, greatly increasing the travel between the cities of Council Bluffs and Omaha. The omnibus and stage-coach, in which this transit had for so many years been made, were of course withdrawn.

Up to December Council Bluffs had a Royal Arch Chapter and two lodges of Master Masons. In this month a Commandery of Knights Templar was also organized, with George Lininger as Eminent Commander, and in the list of officers were the names of H. C. Nutt, W. H. Whitla, B. F. Montgomery, N. J. Bond, W. H. Goff, O. M. Brown, G. M.

Drake, D. A. Pile, and E. H. Shugart, all well known and prominent citizens." A fine banquet was partaken of after the installation of officers, and all who participated in the impressive ceremonies expressed themselves as highly pleased. The masonic fraternity have always been very popular here. They have a fine hall on the corner of Main street and Broadway.

Allusion has already been made to the laying of the corner-stone of the Ogden House. This fine building had been projected early in the year. At first it was proposed to erect a hotel in the eastern part of the city by a joint stock company, and liberal subscriptions, with that object in view, were obtained. But finally, these were all turned over to Messrs. Garner, Hammer, and Baughn, on condition that they would erect a first-class hotel on the corner of Market street and Broadway to cost not less than \$45,000. They immediately commenced, and went energetically forward with the work, and nearly, if not quite, doubled the amount of money agreed to be expended upon it. The building erected by them forms one of the finest hotels in the whole western country. In addition to the basement story, which contains four fine store-rooms and a large billiard hall, it has one hundred rooms, with wide and spacious halls and all the conveniences of a first-class hotel. Messrs Porterfield and Cutting were the first lessees, and they proceeded to fit it up in excellent style and at large expense. It was lighted with gas manufactured on the premises. The opening took place on the 22d of December, and extensive preparations had been made to ensure a large attendance. A large and joyous company assembled on the occasion, including many visitors from other parts of the state, and also from Nebraska and other sections of the country, with many railroad officials. Speeches were made by the mayor and B. F. Montgomery, Dr. Miller, of Omaha, Judge Newman, of Burlington, and others. These were followed by an excellent supper, and dancing to a late hour.

In October an ordinance was passed by the city council,

granting the right of way through Bancroft and Farnham streets to the Burlington & Missouri River railroad. This company, having finished its road to the Missouri river, used the track of the St. Joseph railroad to the depot of the latter in Council Bluffs, and thence along its own track laid along the above streets to its own depot between Main and Bancroft streets. Its cars first made their appearance here on December 4th, 1869, completing the third road extending eastward from Council Bluffs to Chicago.

Another road, which I have not hitherto mentioned, also practically extends to Council Bluffs. This is the Sioux City branch of the Union Pacific railroad, extending from Missouri Valley, a point twenty miles north, to Sioux City. Close connections are made with this road by the Northwestern railroad, so that it gives to the county all the advantages of a northern line. Thus, as completed up to the end of 1869, Council Bluffs enjoyed the facilities of three railroad routes to the east, one south, one north, and, by the Union Pacific, one west.

Other railroads were projected at this time, of which there seemed a reasonable prospect that they would be built. The expectations of the people were high. The *Daily Bugle* published a map of the city showing the lines of all these roads as they either entered or were expected to enter the city, together with a notice of its then present and prospective advantages, all of which were summed up in the following elaborate heading:—

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA!

THE GREAT RAILROAD CENTER AND COMMERCIAL EMPORIUM OF THE WEST.—THE TERMINATION OF NINE IMPORTANT RAILROADS.—TWENTY-FOUR SQUARE MILES OF HIGH AND DRY BENCH LAND FOR THE BUILDING OF A GREAT COMMERCIAL CITY.—TWELVE SQUARE MILES OF HILLS AND ROLLING LANDS SUITABLE FOR THE BUILDING OF MANSIONS, COTTAGES, AND RESIDENCES, OVERLOOKING THE CITY.—1870.

New Year's Day of 1870 was devoted largely in Council Bluffs to social enjoyment. Many ladies kept open houses. The weather was clear and bracing; a slight snow covered the ground, but hardly sufficient to make good sleighing. This entire winter was quite moderate, the mercury only marking down to zero on rare occasions.

The board of supervisors convened on the 3d of January, and elected O. C. Whipple chairman. The new supervisors were: J. P. Williams, of Kane; Thomas Sheets, of Grove; David Groom, of Macedonia; R. M. White, of Center; David Dunkle, of Crescent; and H. S. Matthews, of York. The bonds of the new county officers were approved, and they entered upon their duties. Notice was received that Durant had recovered a judgment against the county for \$8,332.50 on railroad coupons. The board this year refused to levy a tax to pay the judgment, but ultimately were compelled to do so. A poor house was built this spring on the poor farm, at a cost of \$2,000. Wm. Garner, J. P. Williams, and Thomas Clifford were directors of the poor. The expenses of supporting the poor, which were very heavy, were met by issuing county warrants to the directors, who sold them for the best price that could be obtained. The amount issued and sold in 1869 was \$16,000, bringing, in cash, \$7,830. At this session \$5,000, and at the March session \$3,000, were also ordered to be issued and sold in the same way. The taxes on railroad lands were remitted, and the thanks of the board of supervisors were tendered to the court house commissioners for the faithful and prudent manner in which they had discharged their duties. At the March session Kane township was divided into two election precincts, and a new road ordered to be constructed to the deaf and dumb asylum, then in course of construction. At the September session the taxes for the year were levied, and amounted, besides school and local taxes, to eleven and one-half mills on the dollar. The board instructed the treasurer to refuse payment on all county warrants over ten years old. At this session the auditor

was directed to sell the swamp lands belonging to the county at their appraised value, one-third cash and balance in five years.

On the 8th of June, 1870, the board of supervisors, by the necessary two-thirds vote required by the law of March 30, 1870, passed a resolution to bond the floating indebtedness of the county. E. B. Bowman, the county auditor, was charged with the preparation of the bonds, and they were issued at different times between the 1st of September, 1870, and March 8th, 1871, to the amount of \$111,900. They were payable at the office of the county treasurer in ten years, with interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum. About \$75,000 of these bonds were issued by the county treasurer on the first of September; the remainder, although bearing the same date, were not issued until late in December. This delay was caused by an injunction which had been obtained in the circuit court by A. S. Bryant against the issuing of bonds for warrants issued and sold to meet the expenses of supporting the poor during several previous years. This proceeding excited much attention, and was the subject of extended discussion in the newspapers and elsewhere. In December the injunction was removed, and the bonds for the contested warrants were promptly issued by the county treasurer.

At the September session of the board the county auditor, E. B. Bowman, together with A. V. Larimer, were authorized to surrender up the stock held by the county in the old M. & M. railroad company, upon receiving therefor an equal amount of county bonds issued for the same. They proceeded to take up \$65,000 of the bonds, exchanging stock therefor to an equal amount. James Grant, of Davenport, was the agent, or attorney, through whom this proceeding was consummated, and he demanded for his services that the additional amount of \$35,000 in stock held by the county in the same road should be transferred to him. This was accordingly done. At that time this stock was supposed to be worthless, but Grant knew better, and ulti-

mately realized a large sum (about \$11,000) by this little transaction.

The new township of HARDIN was established this year by the board of supervisors. It comprises Government township, No. 75; range 42, and is six miles square. Keg creek, a fine stream of living water, runs through the township from north to south, and has one or two small groves along its banks. With these exceptions, it is composed entirely of rolling prairie, but all capable of successful cultivation. The Mormons first settled here in 1845, along Keg creek, and commenced several farms. Henry Kearns, Wm. Davenport, Elisha H. Davis, Briggs Dunn, Rees Price, and Joseph Burns, were among the first comers. Stephen William and Henry Ritter were among the first Gentiles. They purchased Mormon claims in 1850, and took up their residence upon them. In 1857, when the new stage road through the county was established, a frame building was erected at the place where it crosses Keg creek, which was occupied for a number of years as a stage station. It was purchased a few years later by Richard S. Hardin, who lived here until 1873, the township being named after him. He was one of the oldest inhabitants of the county, having come here with his father, who was agent for the Pottawattamie Indians in 1838. This township has always been a favorite locality for shooting prairie chickens, and Hardin's house was the headquarters of the hunters. The many good dinners eaten there are still gratefully remembered by the lovers of this favorite pastime.

On the 5th of March the Pottawattamie County Agricultural Society was reorganized, and the following officers elected: President, T. J. Evans; vice president, H. C. Raymond; secretary, B. F. Montgomery; treasurer, A. S. Bonham; directors, G. W. Lininger, D. H. Lawrence, J. H. Lewis, D. B. Clark, and Wm. Garner. One vice president for each township was also appointed. The society soon after leased a tract of forty acres situated in the western part of the city of Council Bluffs, for a long term of years

for permanent fair grounds. This they proceeded to enclose with a high board fence, and erect on it several substantial buildings for Fair purposes. Col. Cochran, the lessor of the grounds, also built a large amphitheatre overlooking the trotting course, and as the season progressed extensive arrangements were made for the county fair. This was held in September, commencing on the 20th, and was designed to continue four days. The grounds and buildings were well filled with stock, farm products, and works of art and industry. The trotting on the course excited great interest. The first two days proved quite successful, and the grounds were well filled with people. But then came a heavy rain, which completely put an end to the fair, and converted the fair grounds into a field of water and mud. This was generally deplored, as the exhibition was in all respects highly creditable, having been the first held in the county for several years. The society was left with a heavy debt on its hands, incurred in fitting up the grounds.

During this winter a most successful fraud was perpetrated upon the wealthy banking house of [✓]Officer & Pusey, who were induced to purchase of a person who represented himself to be a merchant in Nebraska a forged draft for \$2,500. All attempts to arrest the rascal or ascertain his whereabouts wholly failed.

In February hogs were quoted in Council Bluffs at \$8.50 to \$9.50 per hundred. This price would have filled the pockets of farmers with greenbacks and national currency very rapidly, but unfortunately they had but few hogs to sell. Corn at this time was quoted at forty to fifty cents per bushel, and wheat about the same price.

[✓]Capt. A. L. Deming, the president of the First National Bank, died in Council Bluffs March 28th, after a lingering sickness of many months. He had formerly resided in the eastern part of the state, where he had been extensively engaged in business. He came to Council Bluffs in 1860, and immediately identified himself with its interests and prosperity. No man in the city had a higher character for in-

tegrity and probity, and none more richly deserved it. He was enterprising and public-spirited, and his death was a real loss to the community among whom he lived and whose growth and welfare he did a great deal to promote.

On the evening of the 9th of April a man named John Watkins, a German by birth, was killed in Council Bluffs in a drunken affray, in the eastern part of the city. Several arrests were made, but it was found impossible to identify the person who committed the deed.

On the 30th of March the city council passed an ordinance granting to the "Council Bluffs Gas Light Company" the exclusive privilege, for the term of twenty years, of furnishing the city with gas. This company, composed of A. E. Swift and his associates, proceeded soon after to locate their principal works in the southern part of the city, and to erect the same. In the course of the year, gas pipes were placed in most of the principal streets, and the citizens, desirous of using it, were furnished with gas early the following year. The price was fixed at \$4.50 per thousand feet.

The city council, in which the exclusive power to grant licenses for a ferry across the Missouri river, opposite the city, is vested, was occupied at several sessions this spring, with the question of a renewal of the license of the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company. Finally, after protracted debate, the franchise was granted for the term of three years, upon the payment annually of the sum of \$1,000, but the grant did not include the transfer of railroad freights or passengers across the river, which was then being made by a separate company. In this and previous years the ferry franchise had been a very valuable one, but the completion of the Union Pacific bridge in the following year greatly impaired its value.

At the election this spring in Council Bluffs there was quite an animated contest. The republicans nominated a full ticket, and the opposition, under the name of the people's party, also placed a full set of candidates in the field. The latter was elected by a small majority. The list of city

officers was as follows: Mayor, J. M. Palmer; recorder, F. A. Burke; city marshal, F. A. Burghardt; treasurer, Wm. Groneweg; assessor, S. G. Underwood; aldermen, J. P. Williams, H. P. Warren, G. F. Smith, John Hammer, L. W. Babbitt. Appointed by the council: City attorney, J. R. Reed; engineer, L. P. Judson; chief of police, A. J. Bump; supervisors, D. G. Spooner, Thomas Clifford.

During the year considerable work was done upon the streets of the city, the most important and expensive improvement being the filling up of Broadway, and the erection of a side-walk along the same to the fair grounds. This work cost the city \$9,322.70, besides the expenses of the side-walk. The rate of taxation for city purposes was twelve mills; the school tax was nine mills. At the school election in March the school board was authorized to issue \$15,000 additional bonds for the erection of the high school. The directors elected at the same time were J. F. Evans, C. B. Jacquemin, D. B. Clark, P. B. McKay, N. D. Lawrence, and D. C. Bloomer.

Early in the spring the work on the Union Pacific railroad bridge, which had been suspended for over a year, was resumed, under the direct charge of Mr. T. E. Sickles, superintendent of the road, and went vigorously forward to completion early in 1872. The plan of construction first adopted was adhered to, which consisted in the erection of tubular piers from the bed rock, seventy feet below, to a height of about sixty feet above low water mark. From the east end of the bridge an embankment of earth extended over nine thousand feet eastward, sloping gradually down to the level of the prairie. The contract for this part of the work was let to Mr. Chapman, of Massachusetts. To enable him to carry it forward vigorously, he erected a narrow gauge railway from the bluffs to the bridge, over which, on cars suitable for the purpose, he conveyed the earth to its desired position. These cars were filled by a steam shovel, working in the edge of the bluffs, and for over two years long trains were running day and night between the points

of loading and unloading, and gradually the monster embankment grew in length and height, until it reached nearly sixty feet in elevation, and two hundred feet in width, at its western terminus, where it joins the eastern pier of the great structure. The whole work, while in progress, excited a great deal of interest, and was visited by hundreds of people from all parts of the country.

During the month of May a bill was passed by the lower house of congress, authorizing the Missouri River Bridge Company, an incorporation organized under the laws of the state of Iowa, to construct and operate the above bridge as a railway and wagon track, charging tolls therefor. This measure was received with great disfavor by the people of Council Bluffs, who insisted that the Union Pacific Railroad Company was required by the terms of its charter to erect the bridge and operate it as a part of its road. On June 24th a large meeting was held in the city on the subject. It was addressed by W. F. Sapp, General Dodge, Mr. Larimer, Judge Baldwin, Mr. Pusey, and others, and a resolution was finally passed, almost unanimously, protesting against the passage of the proposed measure. This, Col. Sapp carried to Washington, and the bill failed in the senate. An act was, however, subsequently passed by congress, authorizing the Union Pacific company to issue bridge bonds to the amount of two and a half millions of dollars; also providing for the construction of a carriage way over the bridge, for the use of which the company was also authorized to levy and collect tolls. To this act a proviso was added, that nothing therein contained should be construed to change the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad from the place where it was then fixed by existing laws, nor to release the company from its obligations as then established by such laws. The whole amount of bonds authorized by this act was issued, but the carriage way therein provided for has never been constructed. It would probably have been fortunate for Council Bluffs if no such law had ever been sanctioned by congress.

On the night of May 6th Council Bluffs was visited by a terrible wind storm. All night the wind howled and shrieked like some fierce demon seeking its prey. At intervals it blew a perfect hurricane, and when morning came it was found that a good deal of damage had been done in all parts of the city. Chimneys were dismantled, sign-boards prostrated, out-houses turned over, and trees torn up by their roots. Several houses in course of erection were blown down. But the severest loss was the complete destruction of the new Congregational church. This building had been commenced the previous year, and work had gone steadily forward on it until about \$62,000 had been expended in its erection. The basement had been completed, and about two months previous had been dedicated as a Sunday school and conference room. This story was of brick. The superstructure was of wood, and had been enclosed. It was surmounted by a fine tower, and the whole building was justly admired for its symmetry and beauty. When the hurricane came, it gained admittance apparently through the half closed windows, and lifting the whole building from its brick foundation, dashed it with terrible force to the ground, literally crushing it to pieces. It was a great loss to the congregation, but they immediately took steps for its early rebuilding.

The Council Bluffs *Times* made its first appearance (daily) on the 26th of February, Julius Silversmith editor and proprietor. It was "devoted to the interests of the true democracy." It changed hands in the course of two or three months after, when it passed under the control of the *Times Printing Company*, composed of D. W. Carpenter, A. C. Buell, and B. F. Montgomery, the latter having charge of its editorial columns. The last number of the Council Bluffs *Bugle* was issued July 8th, when the materials and subscription list passed into the hands of the *Times Company*. The *Bugle* had been printed continuously for twenty years, and for the last fourteen years it had been under the editorial charge of Col. L. W. Babbitt. On the 13th of June

William W. Maynard resumed his editorial connection with the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*. C. T. Aldrich was associated with him during a part of the summer, in the editorial management of the paper. The printing establishment of the *Nonpareil* was much enlarged this year, and a steam engine used for the first time in running its presses.

On the 7th of May the fine brick dwelling of Mr. John W. Ross was burned down in broad daylight. The roof in which the fire originated occupied such an elevated position that the engine was unable to throw water upon it, and the hundreds who assembled when the alarm was given applied themselves to removing the furniture, which was nearly all saved, the building itself being entirely destroyed.

The village of Neola was begun this season, and a railroad station established. It is situated on the Rock Island railroad, and on Musquito creek, in township 77, range 42. One of the first buildings erected was a handsome frame school house.

The village of Walnut, near the center of township 77, range 38, and on the same railroad, was commenced this year. Mr. E. E. Hickle, Leander Dodge, and James S. Woodhouse were the first settlers. Both towns were laid out and owned originally by John P. Cook, of Davenport, and other railroad men.

On the 24th of May Mr. James Watson was accidentally shot, near the former place, by his friend, George Preston, while the parties were hunting prairie chickens. Watson lived but a short time.

June 3d, the congressional convention for the nomination of a representative in congress was held in Council Bluffs. The district then contained twenty-three counties, and all were fully represented, not only by the regular delegates, but many of them by a large outside attendance. Indeed the city was thronged by politicians and friends of the respective candidates. These were Hon. F. W. Palmer, and Hon. John A. Kasson. An active and most exciting canvass had preceded the assemblage of the convention. B. F.

Murray, of Madison, presided, and when the roll was called the vote stood: For Palmer, 60; Kasson, 26. Mr. Palmer was declared the nominee, and he was then introduced and addressed the convention, which was the last held in the old fifth district of Iowa, and the first ever held in Council Bluffs.

On Sunday evening, June 5th, Francis Skelton, a boy aged twelve years, was shot, on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, just south of the Harrison county line. The deceased, with several other boys, was standing along the track as the freight train from the south was passing. A revolver was fired from the train, and the ball entering the chest of young Skelton, caused almost instant death. Great excitement over the affair was created, and William A. Rumsey, the conductor, and Linus C. Moore, the brakeman on the freight train, were both arrested and lodged in jail. An indictment was found against Rumsey by the grand jury of Pottawattamie county. The place of trial was removed to Harrison county, but no trial ever took place, the charge being dismissed by the prosecuting attorney.

On the afternoon of June 20th, Charles Austin was shot, in front of the *Times* office, Council Bluffs, by James M. Bell. Both were printers, and there appeared to have been an old feud between them. Bell went to the *Times* office on that day, when a quarrel followed. Austin made a rush towards Bell, and the latter drew his revolver and fired. The ball entered over the right eye, and traversed the skull in such a way as to produce death a few days afterwards. Bell was arrested, tried in the district court, and sentenced to the state prison for six years. He has since been pardoned by the governor.

The fourth of July was celebrated in various ways in Council Bluffs. In the first place, there was a race in the morning, on Main street, between the Phoenix and Bluff City fire companies, which was won by the former. This called out a great crowd, and excited a good deal of feeling. Then followed a dinner, and speeches by the Labor Associa-

tion, in Bock's beer garden. Next, in the afternoon, there was a trotting race on the fair grounds, and in the evening the usual display of fire-works. Quite a large party went to Avoca to visit John Jones and family, the former popular occupants of the Pacific House in Council Bluffs, and then in charge of a fine new railroad hotel at the former place.

Presbyterian churches were organized in 1870 at Hazel Dell and Avoca. The former is situated in the northern part of the county, and the handsome frame church erected by the congregation occupies a beautiful position on an elevated prairie site, commanding a view of the surrounding country for a long distance. A comfortable place of worship was also erected by this church in Avoca. Both of these organizations were largely aided in their first efforts by their brethren in Council Bluffs.

The second Methodist church was organized in Council Bluffs in December, 1870, and in the following year proceeded to erect a comfortable place of worship in the western part of the city. This new society received a large amount of substantial aid from the Rev. Moses F. Shinn, a former resident of Iowa, and where for many years he had officiated as a circuit minister, and also presiding elder.

This year the United Brethren in Christ, who had organized their church as early as 1864, erected a small but convenient place of worship in the southern part of the city.

That branch of the believers in Mormonism who repudiate the leadership of Brigham Young, and recognize Joseph Smith, Jr., as the true head of the Mormon church, continued to steadily but slowly increase in the county. Their annual conference was again this year largely attended. It was held in a beautiful grove on Musquito creek, and thousands visited it from all parts of the country to witness the exercises of a Mormon camp-meeting. A plain but commodious frame building was erected in Council Bluffs, in which their regular religious meetings in the city have since been held.

The First Baptist church had been organized early in 1868, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. T. F. Thicksten, who still continues his labors in the city. This summer the congregation completed a very handsome chapel, and also erected a parsonage.

As early as 1863 a small but pleasant brick church was erected in Council Bluffs by the Salem German Church. This year, St. John's congregation of German Evangelists was also organized, but the religious feeling among the large German population was far from being general, and these organizations failed to reach more than a very small proportion of emigrants from the Fatherland.

The first Unitarian Society of Council Bluffs was organized this year, and a handsome brick chapel purchased and fitted as a place of worship. The Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald was its first pastor.

The Pacific National Bank was added to the banking institutions of Council Bluffs; capital, \$100,000; authorized capital, \$500,000. Its first officers were: John T. Baldwin, president; G. M. Dodge, vice president; and Abner West, cashier. B. F. Allen, the well-known capitalist of Des Moines, was one of the largest stockholders in this institution. The Council Bluffs Savings Bank was also incorporated this year with a paid-up capital stock of \$25,000, and an authorized capital of \$200,000. Its first officers were: N. P. Dodge, president; John Beresheim, vice president; and A. W. Street, cashier. This bank proved of great convenience to the people, as it receives deposits of one dollar and upwards, paying six per cent interest therefor.

Early in August about two hundred Iowa editors visited Council Bluffs and spent a day in the city. They arrived in time for an early breakfast, were then taken in carriages to the principal points of interest, and at two o'clock partook of a sumptuous dinner at the Pacific House. Here an address of welcome was made on behalf of the mayor, and a fitting response elicited from Mr. Irish, of Iowa City.

Many then left on the afternoon train, but to those who remained a ball was given in the evening at Bloom's Hall.

The census of 1870, under the authority of the general government, was taken by A. E. Steinmentz. The population of the county was 16,893, divided among the townships as follows: Boomer, 611; Center, 528; Crescent, 1,117; Grove, 356; Hardin, 122; James, 309; Kane (outside of Council Bluffs), 1,086; Knox, 961; Macedonia, 321; Rockford, 623; Silver Creek, 231; Walnut Creek, 382; York, 226; Council Bluffs city, 10,020. The other statistics shown by this census were as follows: Acres of improved land, 46,043 — value, \$2,471,865; value of live stock, \$596,654; number of horses, 3,040; mules, 144; milch cows, 3,134; sheep, 2,195; swine, 6,683; bushels of wheat, 148,805; Indian corn, 611,528; oats, 88,108; barley, 6,169; potatoes, 81,860; pounds of wool, 5,692; butter, 200,491; cheese, 3,970; total valuation of real and personal estate, \$9,711,180; total taxation for all purposes, \$167,462.

The consolidation of the two or three short lines of railroad between Council Bluffs and Kansas was completed this summer, and a new company organized called the Kansas City, St. Joseph, & Council Bluffs Railroad. Its entire length is two hundred and one miles, and by this route direct and speedy communication was opened to St. Louis in through cars running directly to that city, the whole time occupied in making the journey being twenty-five hours.

Articles of incorporation of the St. Louis, Council Bluffs, and Omaha Railroad Company were filed this year, the object being to construct an air-line railway from St. Louis, by way of Brunswick and Chillicothe, in Missouri, to Council Bluffs. This road has not been built, or at least that portion of it running through the state of Iowa.

As there were but few county officers to be chosen this fall, the political canvass was rather languid. A few speeches were delivered. B. F. Montgomery was the candidate for representative against F. W. Palmer, and both of

them made speeches in all the counties of the district. G. W. Crawford was supported by both parties for clerk, and the opposing candidates for recorder were Geo. W. Haynes and J. W. Crossland. The election was held October 11th. Whole number of votes in the county, 2,038, of which 1,177 were in Kane township. The republican majority for secretary of state was 168; on congressman, 17; on recorder (Haynes), 140. A. M. Battelle, J. B. Blake, and Robert Percival, were elected supervisors, the last named being a democrat. The majority for increasing the board of supervisors to five was 299. The republican candidates in Kane township for local officers were all elected.

The Teachers' Institute held in October was well attended, about one hundred teachers being present at its sessions. It was conducted largely by the Rev. T. F. Thickstun, aided by several of the teachers of the county. Mr. G. L. Jacobs acted as president, and G. S. Massey as secretary. Hon. A. S. Kissell, the state superintendent, was present, and delivered an address. A good deal of interest in educational matters in all parts of the county was evoked by the assemblage of this institute. Several teacher's associations and debating clubs were formed in the different townships. The one at Big Grove was perhaps the most efficient. It had a large membership, and held weekly meetings during the ensuing fall and winter.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows commenced in Odd Fellows' Hall, in Council Bluffs, October 26th, and continued in session for two days. A full delegation from all the lodges in the state was present, including many of the most prominent members of the order. Several of the Grand officers of Missouri and Nebraska were also in attendance, and the occasion was one of great interest to the members of the order in western Iowa. A session of the Grand Encampment of the order was also held in the evening of the first day's assemblage. The proceedings closed with a grand banquet given to the members of the Grand Lodge by the

Odd Fellows of Council Bluffs at the Ogden House. This fine hotel was brilliantly lighted and beautifully adorned for the occasion, and the enjoyments of the evening were protracted to a late hour.

The Odd Fellows' Protective Association was organized in December. Its first officers were F. A. Burke, president; B. Newman, secretary; and L. Kirscht, treasurer. Its membership steadily increased to one thousand, to which it was limited, and the sum of one dollar is paid into the treasury by each member whenever a death occurs in the association, and this sum, thus paid in, amounting to one thousand dollars, goes to the surviving husband or wife of the deceased. It thus practically amounts to a mutual life insurance society in which the policies are for one thousand dollars each. No difficulty is experienced in collecting the assessments as they fall due, and institutions of this character among the membership of this benevolent order, both in this and other states, have proved a decided success.

General Dodge's new dwelling house was completed this fall. It occupies a commanding position on the western declivity of the bluffs in the southeastern part of the city, and the grounds around it have, in subsequent years, been highly improved, making it altogether one of the most beautiful homes in the state. The work was nearly all performed by our own mechanics, Williams & Monroe having the contract for the carpenter and joiner work, and George Bond for the mason work. About \$35,000 were expended on the building and grounds.

During the season the work on the new deaf and dumb asylum was proceeded with, and the institution was opened for the admission of pupils late in the fall. The building presents a fine appearance, and was substantially built, although the joiner work of the interior was not as well done as it should have been. It is warmed by hot steam conveyed in pipes to its numerous rooms. The gas to light it at night is manufactured on the premises, and the water is pumped from the creek, about a quarter of a mile distant,

by aid of machinery set in motion by a wind-mill. The institution has a capacity for about one hundred pupils, and nearly that number were gathered in it by Christmas.

Early on Friday morning, November 8th, the wholesale grocery store of R. P. Snow was discovered to be on fire. It contained goods valued by the owner at \$45,000 — insured for \$40,000, and the building was also insured for \$6,000. The latter was but little injured, but the former were damaged to near half their value. The fire was clearly the work of an incendiary, but the guilty party was never discovered, although two persons were indicted by the grand jury for the offence, but acquitted by the petit jury.

This year the work on the new high school building moved steadily forward, and was so far completed that, on the 18th of November, it was dedicated to the noble purposes for which it had been erected. Besides a large number of citizens and the members of the city council, the governor, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, and a number of other prominent gentlemen from abroad, were present. The exercises consisted of an address by D. C. Bloomer, of the school board, also by L. W. Ross, Governor Merrill, Superintendent Kissell, and Mr. Armstrong, city superintendent of schools. The building occupies a prominent position on one of the beautiful bluffs overlooking the city. It presents a frontage on the southwest of eighty-two and one-third feet, and on the northwest of ninety-one and two-thirds feet, and is three stories high exclusive of a Mansard story. The height of the entire structure is eighty-two feet. It contains eight large school rooms, besides wide halls and recitation rooms, and all other conveniences of a first-class school house, and it has a capacity for over five hundred pupils. Its entire cost, including grounds, when finished and furnished, was over \$50,000.

Numerous meetings were held in Council Bluffs for the purpose of promoting the industrial interests of the city. The subject was talked of very generally, and all became

convinced that more attention should be given to the building of workshops and factories, in which large numbers of skilled workmen could find employment. During the summer the Council Bluffs Agricultural Works were organized and went into operation. The principal stockholders were Shugart & Lininger, Blanchard & Waite, E. R. Paige, S. Farnsworth, and one or two other gentlemen. They located their manufactory on Main street, and have gradually enlarged and extended its operations in subsequent years. The two first named firms, together with J. Fenelon & Co. and T. J. Hurford & Bro., were large dealers in agricultural implements, their sales aggregating during the year nearly one million dollars.

REPORT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAJOR GENERAL STERLING
PRICE, IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1864.

[Continued from page 226, Vol. X., No. 3.]

THE fighting lasted nearly six hours, the enemy's firing ceasing about four o'clock P. M., when he refused to advance against my last line of battle, formed on the east side of Independence. At five o'clock the command moved in column to the main camp of the militia on the Big Blue, where defensive works had been constructed, arriving there about eight o'clock P. M.

The fourth brigade, under command of Col. James H. Ford, Second Colorado cavalry, consisting of the Second Colorado cavalry, Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, and First Colorado battery, which had been detached from the third brigade, by order of the commanding general, reported to me for orders on the morning of the battle of the Little

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